

Ch. of the Assumption, New Egypt, NJ.

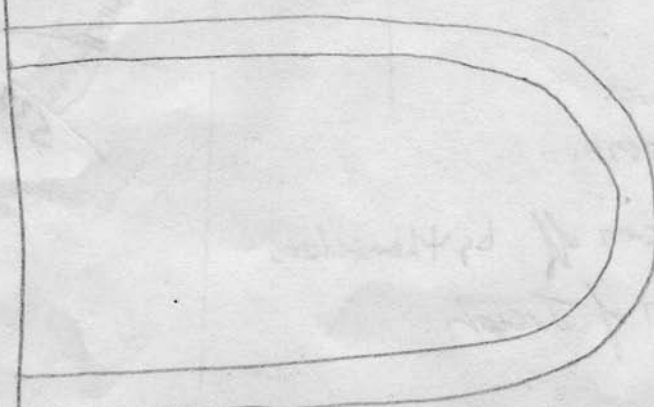
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Evergreened.

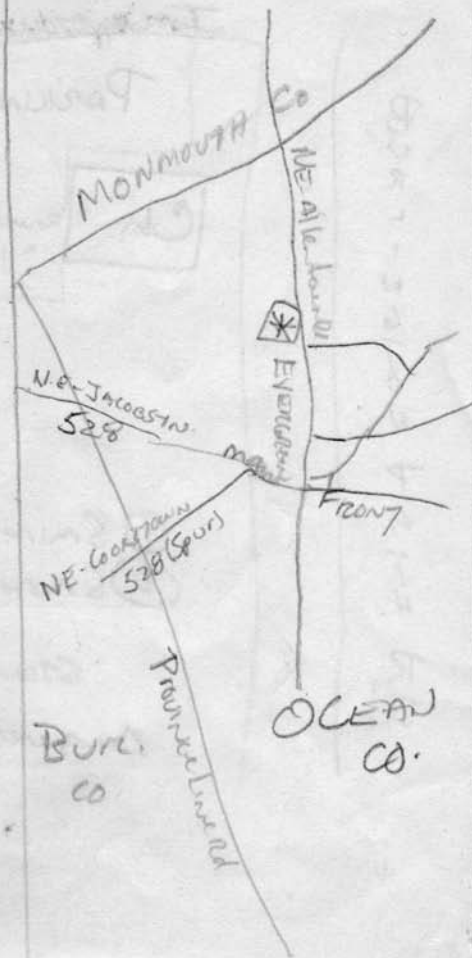
Rect.

Ch.

② ①



- ①. JOHN, MARGARET, JOHN D MURPHY
② DAVID Crethers, BRIDGETT MURPHY



A Story New Egypt & Plumsted Twp. *Dorothy S. Hoarn*

In the year 1853, the first Catholic service was held in this area. It is recorded in the church's history that Mass was first offered in Hornerstown at the home of Patrick Quinn. A priest from St. Mary's Church in Bordentown first discovered that Catholics were living in this region. It may have been Father Hugh Lane, who was the pastor of St. Mary's about that time, or it may have been one of the Redemptorist Fathers from the old St. Peter's Church in Trenton, who offered the first Mass.

Father Mackin of Bordentown visited Hornerstown and found that the home of Patrick Quinn was too small to accommodate the growing population, for we know that at this time the first Catholic Church was acquired. Father Mackin purchased the old Mormon Church and had it moved to a property in Hornerstown, which he had previously bought for the Catholic group. In 1866 Father Mackin was sent to Trenton and in 1869 Father Patrick Leonard was assigned to Bordentown. Like his predecessor, he carried on the monthly trips to Hornerstown to offer Mass and administer the other Sacraments to the growing colony of Catholics. In 1871 the Hornerstown Mission was placed under the charge of the Franciscan Mission Fathers of Trenton, according to Father Peter Jachette, one of the Franciscans who administered to the Catholic community in Hornerstown. Catholics met and decided to build a new church. It has often been claimed that the one-time Mormon Church was moved to New Egypt but the remarks of Father Jachette do not substantiate this claim. In the records Father Jachette "*administered the first Baptism to Richard Hogan, the first to be baptized in the New Church in New Egypt.*" However, the word *New* in the "*New Church in New Egypt*" could be interpreted as being *new* to them and not new as to construction. Mrs. Sarah Hoarn has told of her father, John Spence, as being one of the helpers to move the building from Hornerstown to New Egypt.

Bishop Corrigan bought the present site of the Catholic Church from the Fort Estate, (other accounts say Dr. Bean donated the land) and on completion of the Church it was blessed by Bishop Corrigan on November 15, 1874 under the title of the Church of the Assumption.

The parish, now in New Egypt, remained under the charge of the Franciscans until 1879.

In 1877 the parish was incorporated, becoming not only a spiritual and ecclesiastical body but a

legal entity as well. The names Father Corrigan; Father Doane, the vicar general; and Father Jachette, the pastor, appear on the papers of incorporation with Michael Nash and Edward O'Connor, the lay trustees.

In 1879 the parish became a mission of St. John's in Allentown.

In 1907 Father Blake purchased additional property known as the Larkin property. The present rectory stands on this land.

Like all country parishes, the Church of the Assumption boasted a cemetery. Part of the cemetery was a piece of the land purchased by Bishop Corrigan. Over a period of years, burial space became exhausted and a strip of land adjoining the cemetery was purchased in 1920 by Father Walsh from Mrs. Edward Wikoff.

In the late summer of 1947, New Egypt parish was made a separate and independent parish with Father Eugene Kelly in charge.

On November 14, of the same year, New Egypt parish was served by its own resident priest, Father William Barron. In the following year, parish construction began. The cost of the project was nearly \$70,000. Father Barron at once began plans to reduce the debt and to organize the societies customarily found in established parishes.

The accomplishments of Father Barron in nearly four years of his pastorate will always be remembered by his parishioners in New Egypt.

Father Barron was succeeded by Father Coan and Father Ridge is the present pastor of the Church of Assumption.

Evergreen Again



Evergreen North of Railroad

Continuing north, passing the Catholic Cemetery, is the home of the late Edward C. Errickson who built this house in the early 1920's to accommodate his wife and family of

7117 1/2 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90046
Aug. 31, 1989

Church of the Assumption
76 Evergreen Rd.
New Egypt, NJ 08533

Dear Tony,

Thank you so much for your quick reply to my phone call regarding Mary Murphy and Edward Southard's marriage. I have contacted Immaculate Conception in Trenton and they are checking their records for me.

In your letter you mentioned a marriage in 1876 of Birgitta Murphy. This intrigues me as Mary's sister was Bridget and she married S.B.D. "Dave" Crithers. Could this be the marriage in your register? If so I would very much like to obtain any information you have regarding this wedding.

Also, Mary's parents, John and Margaret (Donovan) Murphy are interred in your churchyard. Are there any registers of deaths that may have mentioned them? John died 14 August 1889 and Margaret died 7 April 1891.

Do you have any knowledge of any cemetery inscription inventory or register (baptism, marriage, etc.) that have been published, or perhaps a history of your church?

I know this letter is getting long, but if you could just bear with me. I have been searching for information on this branch for 4 years and have just recently found the connection with your church and am quite ecstatic.

Edward and Mary (Murphy) Southard had 8 children as follows:

Anna M. or Mary	November 1872
Joseph C.	November 1874
Emily H.	5 April 1877
John Lawrence	15 July 1879
William M.	May 1882
Margaret N.	December 1884
Lydia J.	March 1891
Edward A.	October 1895

Is there a baptismal register covering these years? If so, would it be too much to ask to check it for baptisms of the above children? Dates of birth and baptism, and the sponsors if available along with any other notations (mother's maiden name, ages, etc) would be appreciated.

Lastly, could you provide directions to get to your church and churchyard from Trenton? I will be back in New Jersey in October and I would like to see the church and possibly get pictures of it and my ancestors gravemarkers.

Thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian A. Smith